

To the Members of the California Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2145 without my signature.

While I am generally supportive of direct deposit for In-Home Supportive Services /Personal Care Services Program (IHSS/PCSP) provider wage payments, I am concerned that significant one-time costs for the Department of Social Services are not addressed. Enhancements to the current computer system, staff training and the development of direct deposit forms are necessary. Additionally, there are ongoing costs that the Department of Social Services would incur including mailing direct deposit forms, staff costs for direct deposit data entry and researching direct deposit problems.

In January my Legislative Secretary sent a letter to all members of the Legislature respectfully requesting that authors identify how legislation will be funded given the magnitude of California's budget crisis. With these tough budget times, legislation that negatively impacts the General Fund must be weighed against existing programs and budget issues to determine its priority. Furthermore, I am concerned that this bill places an unfunded mandate on counties by requiring them to provide direct deposit services not currently available to some providers.

Direct deposit benefits are in line with my view of efficient government and would reduce fraud. Therefore, I encourage the author to work with the Department of Social Services and Health and Human Services Agency to find a cost effective solution to this matter.

For these reasons, I am returning AB 2145 without my signature.

Arnold Schwarzenegger